

Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAN SA 01978 251749Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-08 INR-10 LAB-04
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R 251719Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7817
INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA
AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

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GUATEMALA FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ELAB, ES
SUBJECT: WORKERS ON STRIKE AT VARIOUS CONSTRUCTION SITES

REF: SAN SALVADOR 0701

1. BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED. THE OPPOSITION NEWSPAPER "LA CRONICA" IN ITS APRIL 19 EDITION STATED THAT THOUSANDS OF WORKERS BELONGING TO THE UNITED CONSTRUCTION WORKERS' (SUTC) HAD GONE ON STRIKE APRIL 18. ACCORDING TO "LA CRONICA", THEY DID SO TO PROTEST THE FACT THAT CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES WERE NOT HONORING THE SALARY INCREASES AND OTHER FRINGE BENEFITS INCLUDED IN THE DECISION HANDED DOWN BY THE THREE-MAN "LAUDO ARBITRAL" OR ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL ON MARCH 10. THE TRIBUNAL WAS SET UP BY MINISTRY OF LABOR ON FEBRUARY 8, 1978 IN ITS DECREE SUBMITTING TO COMPLUSORY ARBITRATION THE GENERAL STRIKE CALLED BY 30,000 MEMBERS OF SUTC ON FEBRUARY 4.

2. THE RECENT STRIKES AFFECT CONSTRUCTION PROJECTS IN SAN SALVADORA AND SANTA ANA (EL SALVADOR'S SECOND LARGEST CITY). THE OWNERS OF CONSTRUCTION COMPANIES APPARENTLY
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OBJECT NOT ONLY TO SALARY INCREASES BUT ALSO TO SUCH FRINGE BENEFITS AS HAVING TO TAKE OUT U.S. \$800 LIFE INSURANCE POLICIES ON EACH WORKER. AS A MEANS OF COUNTERING OWNERS, SUTC HAS RESORTED AT VARIOUS PROJECTS TO WHAT IT CALLES "FORMULA H" (H STANDING FOR "HUELGA" OR STRIKE). END UNCLASSIFIED.

3. BEGIN LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. IN A PHONE CONVERSATION
WITH LABOR OFFICER ON APRIL 20, FELIPE ZALDIVAR, THE HEAD
OF THE UNION, STATED THAT NEWSPAPER REPORT WAS TRUE, THAT
CONSTRUCTION OWNERS HAD BECOME INTRANSIGENT WITH RESPECT
TO DECISION OF ARBITRATION TRIBUNAL. HE STATED THAT STRIKES
AT INDIVIDUAL SITES COULD WELL SPREAD TO OTHER PARTS OF
THE COUNTRY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY, WAGES, LABOR STRIKES, FRINGE BENEFITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 25 apr 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: ELAB, ES
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